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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 3, 1999

Contact: Janel Queen, executive director, Montana Natural History Center, 327-0405.

MONTANA NATURAL HISTORY CENTER PLANS DINNER AND AUCTION

MISSOULA--

Adventure vacations, guided river and fly fishing trips, one-of-a-kind artwork, regional crafts and more will be on the block at the Montana Natural History Center's annual fund-raising auction and dinner.

Themed "Down by the River," the evening gets under way at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Missoula Country Club.

Dinner includes carved roast beef, sausage-stuffed mushrooms and Greek spanakopita, accompanied by beer and wine. Quick-draw artists Mary Beth Percival, Donna Thomas and Nancy Erickson will provide entertainment while producing works of art for the auction, and local musician Jodi Marshall will play piano.

Under the direction of auctioneer Kevin Gardner, bidding will take place in live and silent auctions for:

- guided river and fly fishing trips, spa packages and gourmet dinners from local restaurants like Marianne's at the Wilma, Chinook, Shadow's Keep, Red Bird and The Depot.
- artwork by renowned local and regional artists, including a mountain lion sculpture by Ken Bjorge.
- handcrafted items such as an elaborate nine-patch quilt, a table from Three

-more-

Rivers Joinery and a custom-made children's playhouse.

- wildlife-watching and outdoor adventures in spots such as Yellowstone National Park, Glacier National Park and Canada's Hudson Bay.
- weekend getaways at Montana bed-and-breakfasts, vacation cabins and the 6,000-acre Teddy Roosevelt Memorial Ranch near Choteau, setting of the book, "The Horse Whisperer."

Tickets are \$35 per person or \$30 with a new or renewed membership to the Montana Natural History Center. To reserve a place, call the center at 327-0405.

MNHC's mission is to foster understanding, appreciation and conservation of natural systems through natural history education in the northern Rocky Mountain region. It is located in the Nature Center at Fort Missoula.

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